

Proposed Cargill Salt Ponds Purchase:

INITIAL STEWARDSHIP -- Overview

FWS and DFG, with technical assistance from Cargill, have developed a proposed initial stewardship plan for the properties to be acquired. The plan is designed to maintain existing habitat values and prevent a build up of salt in the ponds in a cost-effective manner while long-term restoration planning is underway. It envisions reopening the ponds to San Francisco Bay to allow Bay water to circulate in and out of the ponds to achieve these objectives.

- FWS and CDFG will need to construct some additional water control structures in order to manage the acquired properties during the initial stewardship period. Installation of those structures will require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the RWQCB.

LONG-TERM RESTORATION PLANNING -- Overview

South Bay

The goals of the long-term restoration planning are to restore and enhance wetland habitats for migratory birds and threatened and endangered species, provide for flood management, and provide public access and recreation opportunities in the South San Francisco Bay.

- The California Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Program will lead a collaborative planning effort with FWS and CDFG. Initial funding for the planning effort will be provided by the Coastal Conservancy and the Hewlett, Packard and Moore Foundations.
- In order to ensure the development of a scientifically sound, widely supported restoration, flood management, and public access plan, the project team will actively engage trustee and regulatory agencies, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, the scientific community, and the public in the restoration planning process. There will be frequent opportunities for organizations, agencies, and individuals to be involved in the planning process, which is expected to take approximately five years.
- The Web site for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project will be www.southbayrestoration.org and will be active by the end of 2002. Meeting notices, project updates, and other resources will be available on the Web site.

Napa Plant Site

In cooperation with the California Coastal Conservancy and private foundations, CDFG will initiate the restoration planning process for the Napa plant site following close of escrow. The plan will be coordinated with the ongoing Napa Marsh Restoration Project process and will focus on the restoration of tidal and managed wetland habitat.

Ponds surrounding the Napa plant site will be restored to tidal circulation or maintained as hyper-saline ponds for migratory birds and threatened or endangered species as determined through the long-term restoration.